

## **City Manager's**



### **Weekly Update Friday, April 4, 2008**

**General Plan schedule:** The general plan alternatives, originally expected to be revealed this month, have been delayed to May. The experts analyzing traffic implications recently stated they need more time to examine their models. Rad Bartlam has been dogging the consultants to finish the work, and not get bogged down in details for alternatives that are merely intended to be conversation starters.

**STAA truck legislation:** Sen. Cogdill's office wants to wait a year before introducing legislation that would benefit big rigs coming to and from Lodi businesses, considering the current détente between City staff and Caltrans. The City and Caltrans have found some solutions that provide big rigs the legal routes they need to service Lodi businesses.

**Enterprise zone:** The enterprise zone effort is moving forward, with cities and the county now working on the specific areas to be included. County staff indicates roads and rail lines can be used to connect isolated businesses to the enterprise zone, which would especially benefit General Mills. Nonprofits such as Lodi Memorial Hospital and Blue Shield will not likely benefit from the zone, but their properties will likely be added in case ownership changes.

**New chief ceremony:** A swearing-in ceremony for Chief-to-be David Main is scheduled for 4 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in the Council Chambers.

**Low foreclosure rate:** Lodi has the lowest foreclosure rate among 19 cities in the northern San Joaquin Valley, according to a national firm that tracks real estate facts and figures. Lodi had one foreclosure for every 74 residents, as of March 26, the best ratio in the survey, followed by Chowchilla (1-in-73). Among San Joaquin County cities, Escalon had a 1-in-55 rate, followed by Manteca (1-per-44 residents), Stockton (1-per-35) and Lathrop (1-per-22). Patterson had the highest foreclosure rate as measured by a ratio of residents with 1-in-20. Mayor Mounce obtained the figures at a League of California Cities division meeting.

**Park dedication:** A dedication ceremony to mark the transfer of Century Meadows Park to the City's control is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Light refreshments, kids' activities and information about city services will be available for residents.

**Arbor Day:** Friday's celebration at Vinewood School resulted in students planting six trees at the school and other students going home with coast redwood seedlings. Wal-Mart sponsored the awards.

**Large solar project:** Clark Pest Control turned on its 166kW photovoltaic system on March 31. It's the largest system in the city, roughly 55 times larger a large residential rooftop installation. Projections indicate the system will generate roughly 250,000 kWh annually.

**Online job interest card:** People interested in being hired by the City or promotions can now sign up for an online notification system. By going through the Job Opportunities link, anyone can click on a job title and then click “e-mail me when jobs like this become available” and complete and submit the interest card.

**Lodi movie uses courtroom:** Wild Heart Productions, based in Lodi, filmed in the old Lodi Courtroom 1 over the weekend. Fleet & Facilities Manager Dennis Callahan coordinated court access with the film crew and reported the participants were thrilled with the outcome. Channel 13 sent a news crew to Lodi to report on the filming and brought some good PR to the city. The film will be called "Bad Faith" and will be entered in various film festivals. Callahan said the facilities were in better shape afterward than before.